

**Remarks**

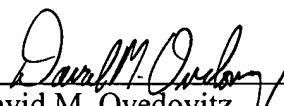
The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

In light of the above-mentioned amendments, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi YAHATA et al.

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David M. Ovedovitz  
Registration No. 45,386  
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
February 6, 2006